



Patricia Wilkinson Garamendi

Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs
Farm Service Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250-0510

Patricia Garamendi was appointed Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency by President Clinton in January 1999. She shares responsibility for the formulation of policy and the administration of USDA's programs that support farmers and conserve vital agricultural land and natural wildlife habitats. Garamendi also administers the commodity and livestock disaster assistant programs.

Garamendi comes to this new job well prepared to be a federal administrator. In 1998, she completed a 5-year tour of service with the U.S. Peace Corps where she served 4 years as the Associate Director responsible for the nationwide operations of recruitment, selection, and placement of 7,000 volunteers in 91 countries worldwide. Under her leadership the number of volunteers reached a 21-year high, with the highest level of diversity in the Agency's history. Her on-line internet recruiting system lead the Peace Corps into the cyber world and earned her and her staff the coveted "Hammer Award" from the National Performance Review for Excellence and Innovation in Government. Patricia's last year at Peace Corps was spent upgrading and redesigning the Office of Private Sector Support, which develops private financial support for volunteer projects. She also managed a successful international conference on volunteerism.

Patricia brings to the USDA extensive experience in reinventing government. She successfully reduced by 30 percent the number of Peace Corps regional recruiting offices, installed a national information technology system that created a seamless communications and volunteer applications system. She reduced headquarters staff 27 percent, and budget 17 percent, while increasing the number of volunteers selected by 20 percent. She installed the Agency's first career planning and readiness program for staff members who were approaching their mandatory 5-year service limit. She directed the national advertising program for the Peace Corps and managed the editing and publishing of three books on the experiences of Peace Corps volunteers.

Garamendi is a graduate of University of California, Berkeley with a BA degree and a Juris Doctor from Humphreys Law School. She also has 25 years' experience in agriculture as the manager and controller for her family's California cattle ranch and farm operations.

Garamendi and her husband John, former Deputy Secretary of Interior, have been married 33 years. They were Peace Corps volunteers in Ethiopia prior to returning to California to raise six children who share her spirit to serve.